

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-40 **(Canceled)**.

41. **(Previously Presented)** A lid assembly according to claim 55, wherein the second layer consists of aluminum.

42. **(Previously Presented)** A lid assembly according to claim 41, wherein the first layer consists of low density polyolefins.

43. **(Previously Presented)** A lid assembly according to claim 42, wherein the first layer consists of a low density polyethylenes.

44. **(Previously Presented)** A lid assembly according to claim 43, wherein the third layer consists of polyolefins.

45. **(Previously Presented)** A lid assembly according to claim 44, wherein the third layer consists of polyethylene.

46. **(Previously Presented)** A lid assembly according to claim 44, wherein the third layer consists of polypropylene.

47. **(Previously Presented)** A lid assembly according to claim 44, wherein the third layer consists of ethylene vinyl acetate plastics.

48. **(Previously Presented)** A lid assembly according to claim 44, wherein the third layer consists of polyester.

49. **(Currently Amended)** A lid assembly according to claim 55, wherein the diameter of the inner lid is larger than ~~the~~an external diameter of the container neck, but simultaneously smaller than ~~the~~an internal diameter of the outer lid, said protrusion of the collar extending

~~radially toward the centre until the external diameter of the package~~  
inwardly to an outer surface of the container neck.

50. **(Currently Amended)** A lid assembly according to claim 49, wherein the inner lid has a hole for pressure equalization between the ~~volume inside~~ of the container and ~~a volume~~ an area between the outer lid and the inner lid.

51. **(Currently Amended)** A lid assembly according to claim 50, ~~wherein including a seal sealing against the outer lid is provided around~~  
~~an opening the hole in the inner lid~~ sealing against the outer lid, said outer lid having a subarea above the opening of the inner lid which is deflected by a pressure difference.

52. **(Previously Presented)** A lid assembly according to claim 49, wherein the centre of the inner lid is secured to the outer lid with a rotatable securing means, wherein a container vacuum through the inner lid pulls the centre of the outer lid downwards, thereby deflecting a subarea of the outer lid.

53. **(Previously Presented)** A lid assembly according to claim 52, wherein the collar of the lid has an inwardly directed annular ring as a securing means for the inner lid, said ring extending in an oblique direction relative to the inner lid.

54. **(Previously Presented)** A method of opening a lid assembly according to claim 55, by means of twisting it off the neck of the container, wherein during the twisting off of the lid a pointwise upwardly

directed pressure is created on the edge of the inner lid, an opening to the volume of the container thus being created and the volume being vented.

55. **(Currently Amended)** A lid assembly for closing an opening in a neck of a container, said lid assembly comprising an outer lid member and ~~an~~ a planar, multilayered inner lid member,

said outer lid member consisting of a top part and a cylindrical collar, said cylindrical collar defining inwardly-extending threads and a single inwardly-extending protrusion which is located below the inner lid member at a level of an upper edge of the neck of the container when the lid assembly is attached to the container, and

said planar, multilayered inner lid member consisting of a first layer for sealing against the upper edge of the container and made of a soft thermoplastic elastomer, a second layer having gas barrier properties, and a third layer consisting of thermoplastics which covers the second layer, said third layer making contact with the outer lid, wherein said third layer has a first relatively low friction coefficient with said ~~out~~ outer lid and said first layer has a second relatively higher friction coefficient with the upper edge of the neck of the container,

wherein during removal of the ~~neck-lid~~ assembly from a container, the outer lid member is rotated relative to the neck of the container and said protrusion will exert an upward pressure against an edge of the inner

lid member to cause the inner lid member to be pointwise separated from the upper edge of the neck as the outer lid member is rotated.